

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BERLIN 00380 180617Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-12 /084 W  
-----038729 180845Z /11

R 180557Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6515  
INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
USMISSION USBERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
USMISSION USNATO

S E C R E T BERLIN 00380

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV, PINS, GE, GW  
SUBJECT: FRG-GDR RELATIONS: SCHMIDT-HONECKER MEETING

1. IN THE COURSE OF LUNCHEON CONVERSATION WITH ME JAN. 17,  
FRG PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE GDR GAUS EXPRESSED  
DOUBT WHETHER A SCHMIDT-HONECKER MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE  
IN 1978.. HE ATTRIBUTED THIS TO THE TENSION RESULTING  
FROM THE OPPOSITION "MANIFESTO" PUBLISHED IN DER SPIEGEL,  
THE CLOSURE OF DER SPIEGEL OFFICE IN EAST BERLIN BY THE  
GDR, AND THE DENIAL OF CDU NATIONAL CHAIRMAN KOHL ENTRY  
INTO EAST BERLIN ON JANUARY 14.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BERLIN 00380 180617Z

2. GAUS STRESSED THAT GDR DENIAL OF ENTRY TO KOHL HAD  
DEFINITELY ELEVATED RECENT INNER-GERMAN DIFFICULTIES TO  
THE POLITICAL LEVEL AND IT WOULD BE VERY DANGEROUS FOR  
CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT TO VISIT EAST GERMANY IN 1978. GAUS  
EXPLAINED THAT THERE WERE FOUR LAND ELECTIONS SCHEDULED  
IN THE FRG FOR 1978. THE SITUATION IN HESSE WAS ESPECIAL-

LY DIFFICULT FOR THE SPD/FDP AND A VISIT OF SCHMIDT TO THE GDR WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL IN MAINTAINING THE COALITION.

3. GAUS EVEN SUGGESTED THAT A BREZHNEV VISIT TO BONN WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL TO THE SPD/FDP IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. HE THOUGHT THE BREZHNEV VISIT COULD TAKE PLACE IN THE FALL OF 1978. HE ADDED THAT IT WOULD BE DANGEROUS FOR SCHMIDT TO VISIT THE GDR BEFORE THE BREZHNEV VISIT TO BONN. GAUS ALSO SAID THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER IF BREZHNEV VISITED WASHINGTON FIRST IN ANY CASE.

4. I COMMENTED THAT 1978 SEEMED LIKE A RATHER DIFFICULT YEAR FOR INNER-GERMAN RELATIONS; THE SITUATION WOULD BE FURTHER COMPLICATED BY WEST BERLIN STOBBE'S ASSUMPTION OF THE BUNDESRAT PRESIDENCY AND THE ELECTION TO THE EC PARLIAMENT WHICH THE SOVIETS WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY PROTEST. GAUS AGREED BUT THOUGHT THE CURRENT INNER-GERMAN NEGOTIATIONS WOULD PROCEED SINCE THEY SERVE MUTUAL INTERESTS. HE SAW A YEAR OF ZIGS AND ZAGS IN INNER-GERMAN RELATIONS WHICH COULD HAVE A BEARING ON THE BROADER EAST-WEST AGENDA. BOLEN

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MEETINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978BERLIN00380  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780026-0508  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** BERLIN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780152/aaaabhrp.tel  
**Line Count:** 83  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** b6bacfe2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 25 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3758149  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FRG-GDR RELATIONS: SCHMIDT-HONECKER MEETING  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PINS, GC, GE, (SCHMIDT, HELMUT), (HONECKER, ERICH)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/b6bacfe2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014